



ISSUE NO. 7 – MAY 2005

# EPI NEWSLETTER

DISEASE REPORTING: 8AM–5PM CALL 487-3186 AFTER HOURS CALL 201-0804

Leon County Health  
Department

## HOT TOPICS

Arthur P. Cooper,  
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Jack Pittman,  
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Communicable Disease : 487-3186

Rebecca D'Alessio,  
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## EPI Update – Cyclosporiasis May 6, 2005

Cyclosporiasis cases reported in  
Leon County

### Statewide Investigation

Two cases of *Cyclospora* infection have been reported to the Leon County Health Department. The Florida Department of Health is currently investigating an increase in the incidence of *Cyclospora* cases statewide.

*Cyclospora* is a single-cell parasite with an incubation period of about 1 week that causes frequent episodes of watery diarrhea that can follow a remitting-relapsing course of illness. Other symptoms include loss of appetite, substantial loss of weight, bloating, increased flatus, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, muscle aches, low-grade fever and persistent fatigue. If untreated, cyclosporiasis can last for a few days to a month. Some infections are asymptomatic.

Cyclosporiasis is a reportable disease in the State of Florida. If you see a patient who has had watery diarrhea for a week or more, please consider requesting an ova and parasite (O & P) test for *Cyclospora*. Please report confirmed cases to the Leon county health department at 487-3186.

For more information including preferred methods of treatment, consult the fact sheet from the CDC Division of Parasitic Diseases: [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/cyclospora/2004\\_Cyclosporiasis\\_HCP.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/cyclospora/2004_Cyclosporiasis_HCP.pdf)

Please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Marjorie Kirsch, MD  
Medical Director

Leon County Health Department

487-3162, ext 117 or 24-hour cell – 933-4750

### What to report?

Suspected or diagnosed communicable diseases and out-breaks. List of the reportable diseases can be obtained from the Leon County Health Department at (850) 488-3186 or [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/surv/lor8\\_3.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/surv/lor8_3.pdf)

### Why Report?

Health care practitioners are very busy people. An individual practitioner may not be aware of what is happening in their community at all times. Reporting of communicable diseases makes it possible to prevent further spread of the disease.

### Who should report?

All licensed health care practitioners.

### When should the report be made?

Reporting time is based on the current list of reportable diseases and conditions in Florida see [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/surv/lor8\\_3.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/surv/lor8_3.pdf)

### Immediate Notifiable Conditions include:

- Public health emergencies
- Unusual events/disease, e.g. possible Bioterrorism event/disease, Category A
- And any disease outbreak.

### Where to report?

Direct further inquiry to the Leon County Health Department Epidemiology, Nursing Program Specialist, Rebecca D'Alessio at 487-3186.



### Inside this Edition...

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- **LCHD Confirmed Cases Per Year**
- **Hand washing**
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## LEON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONFIRMED CASES PER YEAR

Disease Name	2001	2002	2003	2004	YTD 2005
Campylobacteriosis	12	23	10	8	0
Cyclospora	0	0	0	0	2
Giardiasis	24	14	20	31	4
E. coli 0157: H7	1	1	0	4	0
Hepatitis A	7	1	20	5	0
Hepatitis B	4	4	6	9	2
Hepatitis B in Pregnant Women	8	7	3	17	7
Malaria	1	0	3	4	1
Meningococcal Disease	2	2	1	1	3
Pertussis	1	0	0	2	2
Salmonellosis	68	114	76	69	10
Streptococcal Pneumoniae	6	2	8	27	14
Shigellosis	9	17	50	15	1
Tuberculosis	13	20	10	9	9

### Disease Reporting:

Suspected or diagnosed communicable diseases call 487-3186 (8 am - 5pm Monday thru Friday) and call 201-0804 (after hours, holidays and weekends)

### White Powder

#### Reporting:

Suspected white powder call 487-3162 (8 am - 5pm Monday thru Friday) and call 201-0804 (after hours, holidays, and weekends)

### Leon County Health Department Epidemiological Investigations for Reportable Diseases

#### April 2005:

Cyclospora	1
Meningococcal Disease	1
Mumps	1
Pertussis	0
Salmonella	5
Strep Pneumoniae	2
Tuberculosis	0



## IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO WASH YOUR HANDS

- Before, during, and after you prepare food
- Before you eat, and after you use the restroom
- After handling animals or animal waste
- When your hands are dirty, and
- More frequently when someone in your home is sick.



**"You can't see germs with the naked eye or smell them, so you do not really know where they are hiding."**